

BROOKLYN NEWS.

WAS GESSNER RESPONSIBLE?

Evidence That Annie Sautter's Slayer Was Demented.

His Mother Was in the Flatbush Asylum Twenty-five Years.

Why Michael Gessner, lame and deformed, shot and killed pretty seventeen-year-old Annie Sautter is a question that was frequently asked to-day by the neighbors, friends and curiosity-seekers who gathered outside the little frame house at 12 Beaver street, Brooklyn, where they stood and stared and gossiped.

As told in "The Evening World" yesterday, Gessner, who was employed as a tailor by Annie's mother, shot the girl twice in the head yesterday afternoon, and then shot himself. Both of them were taken to St. Catherine's Hospital, where they were dead before 6 o'clock at night.

No one saw what happened between the couple in the room, no one heard any angry words. Four pistol shots in rapid succession apprised the members of the Sautter family that something was wrong, and when they dashed into the room the man and the girl were both lying on the floor, apparently dead.

They were revived sufficiently to speak again.

"I could not have been more surprised if one of my own boys had killed Annie," Mrs. Sautter said to-day to an "Evening World" reporter. "Gessner had lived with us for some time, and was friendly to Annie, but not any more than he was to the rest of the girls, and all of us liked him. Oh, why did he kill my poor girl?"

The police advance the theory that Gessner had insulted the girl, and that when she resented it, he shot her. There is nothing to bear out this theory, however.

Some of the neighbors advance the theory that Michael and Annie were lovers, but this is simply a theory. Diligent search in the neighborhood failed to reveal a single person who ever saw the murderer and his victim out together. Some times they have sat on the stoop with other members of the family, but that was all.

Roundman Bonner learned from young Harry Sautter that two weeks ago Gessner had threatened to kill him. This gives color to Coroner Creamer's belief that Gessner was insane and killed the girl and himself while in a frenzy.

It was also learned that Gessner had received an injury some time ago, which at times rendered him temporarily insane. Insanity was also prevalent in the family, his mother having been confined in the Flatbush asylum for twenty-five years.

A brother of Gessner this morning claimed the body of the murderer and suicide.

Annie will be buried Sunday from her late home. Coroner Creamer impelled a jury this morning, and after viewing the bodies an adjournment was taken until Monday.

Two Stories While Asleep.

August Niedman, fourteen years old, fell asleep at midnight, while sitting in a window on the second story of his home, 1073 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, and fell to the sidewalk, a distance of 30 feet. He sustained a fracture of the skull. He was removed to the Homoeopathic Hospital for treatment.

MALONEY AND THE GOATS.

His "Official Duties," He Says, Keep Him Out at Night.

LONG ISLAND CITY, June 28.—James, better known as "Badden" Maloney, the official poundmaster of the city, was arraigned before Justice Duffy to-day on complaint of his wife.

Poundmaster Maloney is a character in Long Island City, and when he entered the court-room he wore a red shirt and no coat or vest. His wife, Bridget, charged him with non-support, staying out nights, and said he paid attention to other women.

"Judge," said Maloney, whose face was very red, "this is not right. As for staying out nights, I have to do it on account of my official duties."

Justice Duffy asked him to explain.

"You see, Judge," said Maloney, "there are a hard set of women up in Hillsville, who keep goats. The goats were allowed to run large in the streets and I put them in the pound. To get ahead of me, Judge, they let the goats out at 3 o'clock in the morning, and I have to stay out all night to hustle for the goats."

At this Mrs. Maloney said that she would withdraw the complaint if her husband would return to live with her or pay \$5 per week to her.

"Not on your life. I'll not do anything of the kind," shouted Maloney.

Justice Duffy said he would investigate, and if he found Maloney's statement true he would require him to merely support his wife, and give the privilege to him of continuing his hunt for the goats at night.

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BIG SCARE, LITTLE LOSS.

Two-Alarm Blaze in Brooklyn Does \$100 Damage.

Two alarms of fire called a large number of engines and created a great deal of excitement in the vicinity of Fulton and Tillary streets, Brooklyn, this morning. The flames were in the basement of a five-story building on Tillary street, adjoining the Kenmore Lodging House.

The structure is now occupied by the city mission. The mission, lodging-house and the building on the other side of the street were formerly occupied by Liebmans Bros., dry-goods merchants.

When the firemen arrived smoke was pouring out of the cellar in clouds. Several lines of hose were run into the building, and within a few minutes the engines were set to work, pouring water into the basement. Meanwhile a large crowd gathered, and the police had some difficulty in preserving the fire line.

While the crowd was watching the firemen, a hose burst and sent a shower of water over the onlookers. At least a hundred people went away with their clothing saturated. Three horses attached to a hook and ladder truck started to run away, but were caught before they had gone fifty feet. The fire was extinguished within fifteen minutes, and the loss, it is said, will not exceed \$100.

Police Chief McNeill is investigating the origin of the fire. The police were unable to state the cause, but the fire is supposed to have started in a pile of rubbish.

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BOYCOTTING MANY GROCERS.

Brooklyn Women Will Not Patronize Stores Where Liquor Is Sold.

Some Dry-Goods Houses Also Included in the List.

Five hundred Brooklyn women began to-day to boycott grocers who sell spirituous liquors. They have also included dry-goods stores in the boycott. The women are all members of the Kines County Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The action was decided upon at yesterday's meeting after considerable discussion.

The women state that it is their intention not to patronize any business man who deals directly or indirectly in wines or liquors.

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MRS. SPRECHER RELEASED.

Will Not Be Sent to Prison for Killing Kirschner.

Judge Moore Considered a Year in Jail Enough Punishment.

Mrs. Kate Sprecher, who shot and killed her recreant lover, Alexander Kirschner, on June 24, a year ago, was discharged from custody this morning by Judge Moore in the Court of Sessions, Brooklyn.

The woman stood before the bar with her nine-months-old baby in her arms. She has been in Raymond Street Jail ever since she shooting. It was behind the prison walls that her child was born. Several weeks ago, the woman, on the advice of a lawyer who was assigned to defend her by the Court, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the second degree.

In discharging her to-day, Judge Moore said: "You were indicted for murder in the first degree, but to save lesser degree of crime, I have examined your case carefully and I am satisfied that if the matter had been heard by a jury you could never have been convicted. No jury in the country would have rendered a verdict that would send you to the execution. You have been in jail for more than a year. I am satisfied that you have been punished enough. I will therefore suspend sentence, and allow you to return to your friends."

The crime for which Mrs. Sprecher was indicted was committed on the corner of Atlantic and Vanderbilt avenues. Kirschner had been in the habit of calling at the woman's house during her husband's absence. He made love to her and finally overcame her. Her husband, who was a poor tailor, learned of his wife's conduct and turned her out of his home. The woman was then in a delicate condition. She went to her lover and asked him to support her. He refused, and gruffly ordered her not to bother him.

The woman wandered the streets for several days. Then she got a revolver. On the night of June 24 she met Kirschner on the street and renewed her demand for support. He again refused. "Then I will kill you," she said, and drawing a revolver from the folds of her dress she shot him in the breast. He died the next day.

Brooklyn Brevities.

Francisco Formica, an Italian, of 46 Spencer street, who bit off a piece of John Basco's ear, in a fight in the apartments of the latter, was arrested to-day.

Timothy Dwyer, of 19 Atlantic avenue, was arrested to-day charged with stealing